Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a), (b) and (c). A statement containing the information is appended. (*Vide Appendix III.*)

Conference of Bus Owners.

292. Mr. K. J. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what were the grievances that were represented in the conference of the bus owners that was held on 30th Kanni 1104 :

(2) have the Government taken any step towards redressing those grievances ; if so, what are they ; if not, why not;

(3) were there any representations by anybody to the Commissioner of Police to stop the system of engaging certain persons by bus and boat people to capture passengers to their respective buses and boats ;

(4) has the Commissioner of Police done anything towards stopping such a system ;

(5) how many bus services are there running between Ernakulam and Kottayam ;

(6) does any one of these bus services belong to a Cochinite ;

(7) which service is given preference to start first from Ernakulam after the arrival of the trains ;

(8) how long is it since that service is enjoying this preference to start first ;

(9) were there any written representations from a Cochinite bus owner to the effect that his bus should be given preference to start first; if so, what orders have been passed on them ;

(10) are there any special reasons to give preference to start first to bus services owned by Travancoreans ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(1) None.

(2) No answer is necessary in view of that to part (1).

(3) Yes.

(4) Yes.

(5) Three.

(6) No.

(7) This depends upon the trains concerned.

(8), (9) and (10). No answer is necessary in view of the above answers.

Bus service in the State.

293. Mr. M. K. Raman.—(a) Will the Government kindly answer the following of the motor bus service in the State, how many are owned by Cochinites and how many by outsiders ;

(b) are the local enterprises given any encouragement by the Government ;

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(c) How many service buses run from Ernakulam to Kottayam and who are the proprietors of the buses that get the 1st and 2nd time, time for starting from the Railway Station ;

(d) was there any other bus owner who claimed to get the 1st time ; if so, who is he ;

(e) is he a Cochinite ;

(f) how was his prayer disposed of?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Cochinite 137. Outsiders 92.

(b) Yes, as far as is possible.

(c) Vide the answer to question No. 292, parts 5 and 7.

(d), (e) and (f). No answer is necessary in view of that to (c).

Mr. M. K. Raman.—With reference to answer to sub-division (c), I am referred to the previous answers to sub-divisions (5) and (7). In (7) it is said that it depends upon the trains concerned. There are only three trains arriving here a day. Who is to get the first time for the first train?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Certain service starts first in the morning, certain other starts first in the noon and certain other starts first in the evening. If any service is late, the next service can start first.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Is there any order which permits only one particular company, one particular bus only to start first for the first train?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It depends upon the trains. Certain service gets the privilege to start first for a certain train, others get the same privilege for other trains.

President.—Suppose you have three bus services A, B and C. Is there a fixed rule that A must be ready for the first train, B for the second and C for the third?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Who gets the first timing for the first train?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I think it is the Fancy service.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—For the second?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I cannot remember now.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I think there are only three services running from Ernakulam to Kottayam.

President.—Probably you are not ready with the information.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—My question was how many service buses run from Ernakulam to Kottayam and who are the proprietors of the buses that get the first and second time, time for starting from the Railway Station?

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Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There are three services altogether that run from here to Kottayam.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I want to know whether they are Cochinites or not.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—All the three are Travancoreans.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Then part (d) of my question is 'was there any other bus owner who claimed to get the first time; if so, who is he'? Then if there was a complainant, was he a Cochinite?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—First of all the owners of the three services are Travancoreans and further there was no complaint so far as I know.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Was there any complaint from anybody?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I have put that question very clearly and yet it is not answered.

President.—What the Member says is that, if somebody has been given the first timing, the others too may like to have that very same privilege, and if he is not given that privilege, he may put in a complaint.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Each service gets the first timing in turn.

President.—Everybody would like to get the first timing or else he will have to wait till the evening, or even the next morning to get sufficient passengers. What the Member wants is that one man should not monopolise the first timing.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There is no such thing, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—There are three bus owners. One man must get the first timing for the first train, the second for the second and the third for the third.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—My idea is to give them by turns the first timing hereafter. That is what I am going to introduce, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Is there any principle which underlies the distribution of this first timing?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No, not now.

President.—All this trouble would come to an end if one month or one week is given to one man so that they might take in turns and all might share the advantages alike.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—That is my idea, Sir. But then this was going on for years, and I never interfered with it.

President.—You will set matters right.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes, Sir.

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